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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

June 12, 2007

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Gift of Mineral Interest
Escanaba Management Unit – Menominee County
The VMS Development Company, LLC Tract
Land Transaction Case #20070027

Gift: Mineral interest for 80 acres.

Description: Menominee County, Holmes Township, T37N, R27W, Section 20: SW ¼
of NE ¼ and, Section 30: SE ¼ of SE ¼.

Donor: VMS Development Company, LLC, Iron Mountain, Michigan.

Authority: Part 5 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources'
(Department) July 2, 2007 Calendar and is eligible for approval on July 9,
2007.

Comments: The offered gift of mineral interest is pertinent to land located in west-
central Menominee County, seven miles westerly of the community of
Bagley.

The Department administers Michigan's Natural Area Program. Natural Area Designation includes 'wilderness' 'wild,' or 'natural areas.' These are high-quality tracts of land that have maintained their natural character or have unique biotic, geologic, scenic, educational, or scientific values. In addition, there are specific ecological and legal requirements that must be met in order for designation of land as a natural area.

Wildlife Division has been approached with a proposal by Friends of the Carney Fen to designate approximately 2,480 acres of State-owned land in Menominee County as the Carney Fen Natural Area. One of the important criteria for establishing a Natural Area prescribes that the surface and

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mineral interest for land encompassed within the designated boundary be owned, completely, by the State of Michigan. This requirement prevents mineral exploration that could disrupt the premise for a Natural Area designation.

A review of State ownership indicated that the mineral ownership is held by a third party on four 40-acre tracts, within the boundary of the proposed Natural Area. Proponents of designation of this area contacted the mineral owner for two of the four parcels, VMS Development Company, and arranged for this gift of mineral rights to the State of Michigan.

A review of mineral title on the two additional 40-acre tracts has been initiated by the Friends of the Carney Fen. That information has been received by the Department and is presently under review.

Acquisition of these mineral rights will unify surface and mineral ownership for 80 acres and will permit inclusion of these lands in future designation of the Carney Fen Natural Area.

Recommendation: That this gift of mineral interest be accepted with appreciation.

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

William E. Moritz, Chief
Wildlife

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

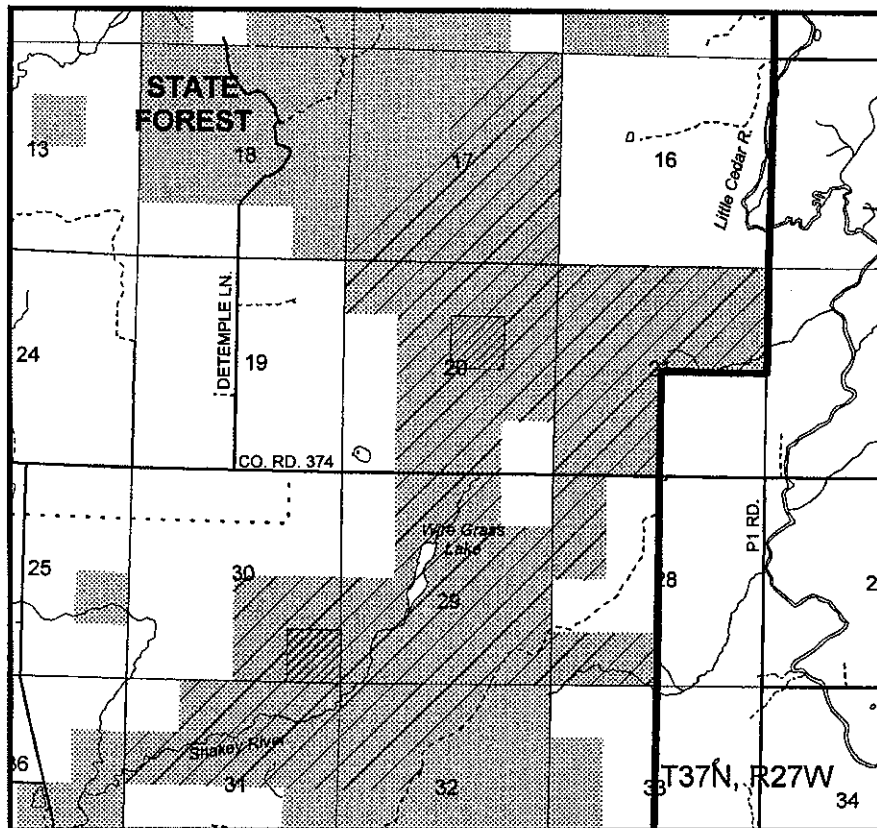
Dennis R. Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

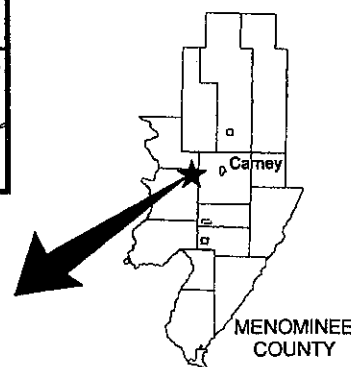
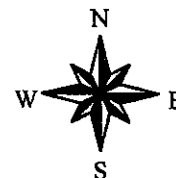
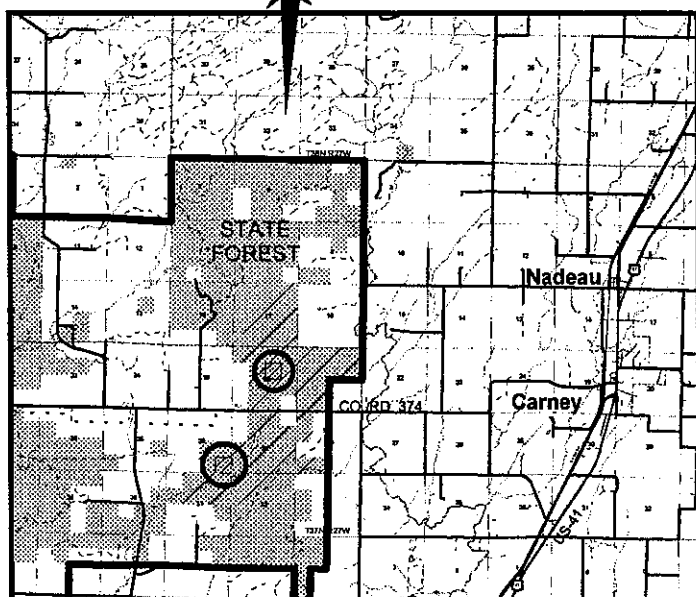
Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

Date Approved

GIFT OF MINERAL INTEREST
Escanaba Management Unit - Menominee County
The VMS Development Company, LLC Tract
Land Transaction Case #20070027



Sections 20 and 30, T37N, R27W, Holmes Township



- State Forest Boundary
- Proposed Carney Fen Natural Area
- Gift of Mineral Interest
- State Land
- Private Land

SOURCE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREST, MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

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